

SENATE BILL 557

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By: **Senator Pinsky**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2010

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 24, 2010

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Alternate Maryland School Assessment – Review ~~and Revision~~**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to review ~~and revise~~
4 the Alternate Maryland School Assessment (ALT–MSA) on or before a certain
5 date; requiring the Department to survey certain teachers regarding
6 satisfaction, or lack thereof, of the ALT–MSA, solicit certain recommendations,
7 and consider certain courses of action as part of a certain review; requiring the
8 Department to report to the Governor and to certain legislative committees
9 regarding a certain review; and generally relating to the review ~~and revision~~
10 of the ALT–MSA.

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires all students to be
13 assessed; and

14 WHEREAS, The assessment of students should be a tool used as part of
15 instruction; and

16 WHEREAS, ~~Students~~ Some students with severe disabilities may need
17 functional and life skills instruction as well as academic instruction and assessments;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Students with severe disabilities also receive an Individualized
20 Education Program (IEP); and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, Assessments should not be so time-consuming as to displace
2 ongoing instructional needs; and

3 WHEREAS, Special education teachers are spending an inordinate amount of
4 their instructional hours creating, preparing, and administering the many aspects of
5 the Alternate Maryland School Assessment (ALT-MSA), including selecting mastery
6 objectives for each student, developing the artifacts to accomplish the mastery
7 objective, and creating sample worksheets and data sheets to document these actions;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The ALT-MSA lends itself to great subjectivity, given the nature of
10 the administration of the assessment and the flexibility provided for scoring the
11 assessment; and

12 WHEREAS, The scoring of the ALT-MSA lends itself to great subjectivity; now,
13 therefore,

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) On or before July 1, 2011, the State Department of Education shall
17 review ~~and revise~~ the Alternate Maryland School Assessment (ALT-MSA) with the
18 goal of reducing the time required to administer the ALT-MSA.

19 (b) As part of the review required under subsection (a) of this section, the
20 Department shall:

21 (1) (i) Survey all teachers of severely disabled students and
22 students who are likely to be impacted by the ALT-MSA regarding satisfaction, or
23 lack thereof, with the ALT-MSA; and

24 (ii) Solicit recommendations for improvement to the ALT-MSA;
25 and

26 (2) ~~consider~~ Consider:

27 ~~(1)~~ (i) Providing greater guidance and taking primary
28 responsibility for the creation of the ALT-MSA while allowing modification to be
29 effectuated by the special education instructor;

30 ~~(2)~~ (ii) Reducing the number of mastery objectives that are
31 currently required for each student in each subject; and

32 ~~(3)~~ (iii) Creating State-approved artifacts for each mastery
33 objective, including tasks, products, and actions, ~~and~~

1 ~~(4) For the most severely disabled students, incorporating a living~~
2 ~~skills based assessment into the existing academic based assessment.~~

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before October 1,
4 2011, the State Department of Education shall report to the Governor and, in
5 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the House Committee on
6 Ways and Means and the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
7 Committee regarding the review conducted under Section 1 of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 July 1, 2010.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.